AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) A printing plate ~~according to claim 2,~~ comprising:

a substrate; and

a hydrophilic porous layer provided on a surface of said substrate, the hydrophilic porous layer including a plurality of small pits, imaging resin being deposited on selected parts of the surface of the hydrophilic porous layer,

wherein an average diameter of said small pits and a thickness of said hydrophilic porous layer are configured to allow the imaging resin to be deposited thereon with a required bonding strength and with a required thickness,

and wherein the thickness of said porous layer is no less than five times the average diameter of said pits.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A printing plate ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising

a substrate; and

a hydrophilic porous layer provided on a surface of said substrate, the hydrophilic porous layer including a plurality of small pits, imaging resin being deposited on selected parts of the surface of the hydrophilic porous layer,

and wherein the plurality of small pits has an average diameter substantially smaller than a diameter of a dot that is to be formed by the imaging resin deposited on [[a]] the surface of said porous layer.

Claim 5. (currently amended) [[A]] The printing plate according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the plurality of small pits has an average diameter substantially not more than one tenth of a diameter of a dot that is to be formed by the imaging resin deposited on [[a]] the surface of said hydrophilic porous layer.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A printing plate ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising:

a substrate; and

a hydrophilic porous layer provided on a surface of said substrate, the hydrophilic porous layer including a plurality of small pits, imaging resin being deposited on selected parts of the surface of the hydrophilic porous layer,

wherein the plurality of small pits has an average diameter substantially smaller than an average diameter of particles of an oil-based printing ink.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the plurality of small pits has an average diameter of 0.03 μm to 1 μm.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim 7, wherein ~~said pits of said porous layer~~ the plurality of small pits have an average depth of 5 μm to 10 μm.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein said substrate comprises an aluminum base plate.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim [[9]] 3, wherein said hydrophilic porous layer consists of an anodized layer, said anodized layer being 0.1 μm or more in thickness.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim [[9]] 3, wherein said hydrophilic porous layer comprises an electrochemically etched layer.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein said substrate comprises a plastic film, and an aluminum film laminated [[on]] to a surface ~~thereof~~ of the plastic film.

Claim 13. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim 12, wherein said hydrophilic porous layer consists of an anodized layer, said anodized layer being 0.1 μm or more in thickness.

Claim 14. (original) A printing plate according to claim 12, wherein said hydrophilic porous layer comprises an electrochemically etched layer.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A printing plate according to claim 10, wherein said small pits are arranged at a density of 10×10^6 to 100×10^6 /mm^2.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A printing plate according to claim 11, wherein said small pits are arranged at a density in the order of 1×10^6 /mm^2.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A printing plate ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising:

a substrate; and

a hydrophilic porous layer provided on a surface of said substrate, the hydrophilic porous layer including a plurality of small pits, imaging resin being deposited on selected parts of the surface of the hydrophilic porous layer,

wherein said small pits extend substantially perpendicularly to a major plane of said printing plate and are spaced from one another.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim [[1]] 3, further comprising a hydrophilic coating ~~formed over~~ on the surface of said hydrophilic porous layer.

Claims 19-20. (canceled)

Claim 21. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate ~~according to claim 20~~ comprising:

preparing a blank printing plate including a substrate and a hydrophilic porous layer provided on a surface of the substrate, the hydrophilic porous layer including a plurality of small pits;

applying imaging resin in a substantially liquid form on selected parts of the surface of the hydrophilic porous layer;

curing the imaging resin applied to the hydrophilic porous layer; and

applying the imaging resin by an ink jet recording head,

wherein the plurality of small pits has an average diameter substantially smaller than a dot formed by the imaging resin ~~expelled from~~ applied by the ink jet recording head.

Claim 22. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, wherein the imaging resin comprises an ultraviolet curing resin, and the curing comprises radiating ultraviolet energy onto the imaging resin.

Claim 23. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, wherein the imaging resin comprises a thermosetting resin, and said curing comprises applying heat to the imaging resin.

Claim 24. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, wherein the imaging resin is lipophilic.

Claim 25. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, wherein the imaging resin in liquid form has a viscosity in the range of 5cp to 30 cp at room temperature.

Claim 26. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, wherein the imaging resin in liquid form contains 10% weight or less of solvent.

Claim 27. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, ~~further comprising~~ preparing the blank printing plate [[by]] further comprising electrolytically polishing a surface of a plate member essentially made of aluminum, and anodizing the surface thereof.

Claim 28. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, ~~further comprising~~ preparing the blank printing plate [[by]] further comprising electrolytically polishing a surface of a plate member essentially made of aluminum, and electrochemically etching the surface thereof.

Claim 29. (currently amended) [[A]] The method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, ~~further comprising~~ preparing the blank printing plate [[by]] further comprising laminating an aluminum layer on a surface of a plastic film, and electrochemically etching the aluminum layer.

Claim 30. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 4, wherein an average spacing between adjacent small pits is smaller than a representative size of a dot or line of imaging resin deposited ~~thereon~~ on the hydrophilic porous layer.

Claim 31. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim [[19]] 21, wherein an average spacing between adjacent small pits is 2 to 3 μm.

Claim 32. (new) The printing plate according to claim 17, wherein substantially all of said pits extend substantially perpendicularly to a major plane of said printing plate.

Claim 33. (new) The printing plate according to claim 17, wherein said hydrophilic porous layer including the plurality of small pits is configured by an anodic oxidation process or by electrochemical etching.